



#11/Election
U. Brown
PATENT APPLICATION 7/3/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Osamu UENO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2827

Application No.: 09/805,250

Examiner: T. Dinh

Filed: March 14, 2001

Docket No.: 108910

For: CIRCUIT BOARD DEVICE AND DESIGN SUPPORT DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement mailed May 21, 2002, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to a circuit board device. Further, Applicants elect Specie I shown in Figure 1 whereby claims 1 and 4-9 read on Specie I. All elections are made with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is generic to all alleged species. Thus, the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one specie would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction/Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Moreover, because claim 1 is generic to all alleged species, Applicants assert that all claims to additional Species II-IV should be entitled to consideration should claim 1 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:BAH/jca

Date: June 21, 2002

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